SHAKSPEARE'S HOUSE. — The question that was raised a short time since, regarding the truth of the tradition which assigned this house as the birth-place of the poet, may be considered as set at rest by a document discovered by Mr. Halliwell, and printed in his recent life of Shakspeare.* It was previously known that John Shakspeare, the poet's father, lived in Henley-street, in 1552, and that he purchased two houses in the same street in 1575; but no one had discovered in which of these houses he resided. Now, in 1596, John Shakspeare sold a small fragment of land situated at the end of Henley-street, and the indenture conveying the purchase, distinctly states it to be bounded on the east side "by the tenement of me John Shakspeare," and as part of the property "in the tenure or occupation of me the aforesaid John Shakspeare." The house now shown as the birth-place of William Shakspeare, is unquestionably the tenement here described, and no better proof of its authenticity can be hoped for after such a lapse of time. We are not among those who love to see old associations destroyed by the antiquarian magnifying-glass, and are therefore rejoiced to find that this national memorial is placed beyond the reach of such an infliction. Mr. Halliwell's volume is exceedingly interesting, and brings some valuable additions to the store of information connected with the immortal man Shakspeare. It is nicely illustrated by Mr. Fairholt.

THE VALHALLA, BAVARIA.—The author of a recent work, "Letters from the Danube," thus complains of the arrangement of the busts in the German Temple of Fame:—"There is a want in them of all symmetry, order, arrangement, or classification according to the nature of their talent, position, or even date of existence in the world, which is peculiarly vexatious to an orderly man like myself. They stand upon their brackets, up and down, and here and there, in marvellous disorder. There is certainly much beauty, however, in many of the heads. Those of Vandyke and the Empress Maria Theresa, to say nothing of so many others, struck me particularly, as well by their beauty of execution as of feature. I was naturally surprised, on first visiting the Valhalla, at finding so many illustrious persons, not strictly of German origin, occupying shrines in a German Temple of Fame; but I was overruled in this objection by the information that the King of Bavaria had admitted all worthies of every country that could boast a Saxon origin; and I very willingly made up my mind to the deification of Vandyke, Rubens, and Van Tromp, particularly as I found the names of Hengist, Alfred, and Egbert, engraved in golden letters upon the tablets, which are let into the upper part of the walls in goodly row."

THE AMERICAN BIRMINGHAM. — Pittsburg, 300 miles west of Philadelphia, with its dependencies, Alleghany, Manchester, Birmingham, &c., contains a population of 60,000. Many of its principal manufactories, with great part of the town, were burnt down last spring; but it now or still contains 11 rolling mills, 25 foundries and mills consuming 75,000 tons of pig-iron, 7 flint-glass factories, besides 14 others on the Monougahela river, 3 steel factories, a number of steam saw-mills, ropewalks, cotton-mills, flour-mills, waggon, plough, and carriage, and oil-cloth factories; a large scale and balance manufactory, and an extensive cut-nail trade. The annual exports equal 17,000,000 dollars, and the port is daily frequented by 25 steamers.

CHURCHES BUILT IN THE REIGN OF QUEEN ANNE.—In reply to an old subscriber who asks for the names of the eleven churches built in the reign of Queen Anne, the following is a list:—St. Mary's-le-Strand and St. Martin's-in-the-Fields (Gibbs); St. Mary's, Woolnoth, and St. Anne's, Limehouse (Hawksmoor); St. George's (Hawksmoor and Gibbs); St. George's, Bloomsbury (Hawksmoor); St. George's, Hanover-square (James); St. Luke's, Old-street (James); St. John's, Westminster (Archer); St. Giles's-in-the-Fields, (Flitcroft, though attributed to Hawksmoor); and St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate (James Gold).

* The Life of William Shakspeare. By Mr. J. O. Halliwell, F.R.S., Hon. M.R.I.A., &c. John Russell Smith, Compton-street.

TENDERS.

The following are the amounts of tenders delivered on the 17th January, for the carcase of a mansion for Mr. H. T. Hope, M.P., Piccadilly.

Bennett	£10,549
Grimsdell	9,944
Locke and Nesham	9,700
R. and E. Curtis	9,484
Kelk	9,348
Laurence and Co.	9,147
W. Cubitt and Co.	8,950

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES

During the ensuing week.

MONDAY, JANUARY 24.—Institute of British Architects, 8 P.M.

THURSDAY 27.—Royal Society, 8½ P.M.; Society of Antiquarian, 8 P.M.; Archæological Association, 8½ P.M.; Architectural Association.

SATURDAY 29.—Institute of Fine Arts, 8 P.M.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Forest Town Hall.—Sufficient has been said. Mr. Stent has expressed regret, and withdrawn his reflections on Mr. Davis.

"*W. P.*"—We have no accurate information relative to the Worcester Lunatic Asylum competition. Mr. Hamilton is said to have the first prize.

"*W. H. D.*"—The traps in question are in use.

"*M. and Son.*"—If our correspondents made a bargain, they ought to abide by it.

"*F. H. W.*"—We shall be glad to hear from him.

"*J. C.*"—Write to Weale, High Holborn.

"*Monument of Lysicrates, at Athens.*"—The total height of the monument is 33ft. 11in.

Received.—"Architect," "Sir T. B.," "M.," "J. H." (Chichester), *a description will suffice.*—"F. N.," "Stone-Sawyer," "M. P.," "C. H. W." (Birmingham), "N. R.," "Rev. J. B.," "F. M.," "A Subscriber," "A Londoner," "J. D.," "S. J.," "W. C." (not desired at this moment), "W. H." (Greenwich), "J. M.," "H. W. F.," "Dr. T." (shall be set right), "O. P. Q.," "H. W. B.," "Junius," "C. J. P.," "J. E."

TO PROVINCIAL READERS.—In reply to complaints of the irregular delivery of THE BUILDER in provincial towns, we beg leave to state that it is invariably published by seven o'clock on Friday morning; and that the irregularity complained of rests entirely with the parties through whom it is obtained.

NOTICE.

A few copies of the Volume for 1847 are in the hands of the publisher, and may be had on application, price 17s. 6d. each. Covers for THE BUILDER *may be obtained at the Office, price 2s.: or the publisher will undertake to bind the numbers at 3s. per volume.*

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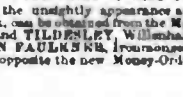
By Her Majesty's  Royal Letters Patent.

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